

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is requiring restriction to one of the following groups:

Group I: Claims 1-9, drawn to process of making an amine; and

Group II: Claims 10-12, drawn to a catalyst.

Applicants hereby elect Group II, Claims 10-12 (and 13), drawn to a catalyst (and a method of using it), with traverse on the grounds that no adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of patentable distinctiveness between the identified groups. Also, it has not been shown that a burden exists in searching the claims of the two groups.

Moreover, the M.P.E.P. at § 803 states as follows:

“If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.”

Applicants respectfully submit that a search of all of the claims would not impose a serious burden on the Office.

Finally, Applicants have amended “use” Claim 13 to a method of using format so that it should be included with the Group II claims.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the Restriction Requirement.

Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in  
condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

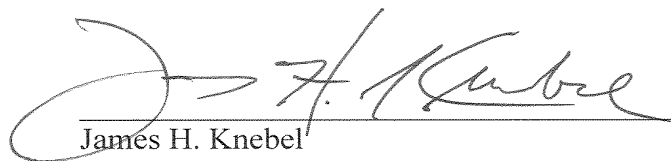
Respectfully submitted,

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